

Neighborhood Advisory Council Delivers Food to 200 Needy Qadasiya Families

By Spc. Alexis Harrison
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - A little more than two years ago, the Qadisiya Neighborhood Advisory Council began working with troops from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment in hopes of making improvements to their neighborhood.

After the artillery regiment from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division left, the council continued its efforts in rebuilding and improving the quality of life for its residents.

Earlier this year, in March, the "Red Dragons" got the message they'd be assuming responsibility for that very same neighborhood they watched flourish a couple years ago.

Although the commanders, troops and times had changed, the relationship between the Soldiers and community leaders has stood the test of time.

Capt. Don Cherry, commander of Battery A, 3-82 FA noted that although his troops enjoy working with the locals and civic leaders, the neighborhood council has shown the ability to take care of business on its own.

"They are on the forefront of what a [Neighborhood Advisory Council] should be," said Cherry, a native of Bolivar, Tenn. "These have been their projects that they've made happen. We just try to help any way we can."

The differences can alarm you if you go into some of the neighborhoods of Qadisiya. Bushes are neatly trimmed. Markets bustle with the hum of trading and bartering. Scores of children come out of functioning schools to safely walk home.



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

A determined young boy from Baghdad's Qadisiya neighborhood helps his mother and sister carry a bag full of groceries back to their home after a humanitarian food drop organized by the Neighborhood Advisory Council May 8. More than 200 families received assistance.

This, Cherry said, is all thanks to the tireless efforts the neighborhood council has put back into its community.

The council organized a food drop for those in need of a little virtual assistance May 8. What's more amazing than giving food out to more than 200 families is the fact that the council members hand-delivered the vouchers to families they knew could use the help. They handed out vouchers good for basic food items like sugar, flour, oil, rice and tea.

Udai Jalal, the deputy chairman of the council, said that being a life-long resident of the neighborhood has helped him and his fellow council members in every way

possible.

He said that knowing families by name and having such good relations with them has made helping them and identifying problems so much more easy.

"These people take pride in their neighborhood, and it shows," Jalal said. "This is the best neighborhood in Baghdad."

This wasn't the first time a food drop had been organized and executed by the council. Just a few weeks ago they distributed food to more than 150



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Eager residents of Baghdad's Qadisiya neighborhood wait in line for a bag full of rice, flour, oil and other basic food items during a humanitarian mission organized by the Qadisiya Neighborhood Advisory Council May 8.

Local Government Team up with Coalition to Feed its People

Families

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families.

Cherry said that since they'd began working with the




council members, short-term goals like small repairs and humanitarian efforts have all been achieved. Now, he said, is the time to start looking into long-term projects like stand-

ing up a health clinic for the residents and sustaining essential services like trash removal, water and electricity.

"The battery is definitely motivated on this mission - get-

ting to help and interact with people," Cherry said. "[The council] does appreciate the fact that we kind of stay in the background and let them create self-sustainment."



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report	Today	Tomorrow	Monday
			
High: 115 Low: 82	High: 113 Low: 80	High: 111 Low: 79	

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Feeling the Heat**Medics Burn Through Fire Rescue Training**

By 2nd Lt. Ryan Wood
2-16 Inf. Regt.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq - Flames jump from the engine of a stricken van as the windshield turns black and shatters in the heat.

Sgt. Alfredo Garza of San Antonio, a medic with 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, rushes to the blazing

vehicle, extinguisher in hand, and flings open the door.

The initial blast of heat surrounds him, but getting to the injured person overrides any fear. With a hiss, the extinguisher knocks down the flames. A firefighter standing next to the door nods, congratulates the Soldier and then throws more paper and wood onto the fire.

This is not the story of fire-

"Putting on the gear, knocking down the fire with the fire hose, tearing the vehicle up, it was like being on TV."

**Spc. Kisha Rasheeda Lloyd
Medic with 2nd Brigade Support Battalion**

fighters gone bad, but of a day of training not usually seen in Iraq. Medics from the 2-16th and the 2nd Brigade Support Battalion gathered to improve their skills in vehicle fire suppression, patient extraction and mechanical extraction with the Rustamiyah Fire Department May 18.

Using an abandoned van, the Soldiers practiced proper techniques for approaching and defeating vehicle fires. Later, they worked with a combat vehicle to practice extracting patients from combat-damaged vehicles.

"With the threats that we face outside the wire," Garza said, "we are encountering most of our injuries in vehicles. This training improves our ability to react to the situations instinctively."

According to Garza, who is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 2-16th's Evacuation Squad, training troops to handle vehicle fires and extractions is a necessity.

"This sort of training allows us to balance speed with necessity. We can better fight the fire, immobilize the patient and extract them from the vehicle as a team," he said. "We have improved our skills and thereby improved the care and protection we can offer our Soldiers."

In one of the scenarios, Soldiers work under a blazing sun in 107-degree weather to

extract two patients from a humvee. The radios, tight seating, and piles of ammunition and gear work against the Soldiers, but with the training provided by the paramedics, the Soldiers were able to cut minutes off the extraction time while moving the patients in a safer manner.

Spc. Kisha Rasheeda Lloyd of Fort Valley, Ga., a medic with the 2nd BSB, saw immediate value in the training, as it pertained to receiving injured patients at the Rustamiyah Aid Station.

"There have been a lot of times," she said, "when a patient rolled up to the hospital in a combat vehicle and I thought, 'Wow, how are we going to get this person out without causing more injuries?' Now we have the skills."

To cap the event, firefighters broke out the fire hoses, air tanks, and hydraulic tools and trained the Soldiers in mechanical vehicle extraction.

Along with the "Jaws of Life," the medics used hydraulic hammers, steel cutters, saws and other tools to access the training vehicle from all points.

"Putting on the gear, knocking down the fire with the fire hose, tearing the vehicle up, it was like being on TV," Lloyd said. "And we still got the skills needed to help people out."



(Photo by 2nd Lt. Ryan Wood, 2-16 Inf. Regt.)

Pfc. Ryan Estrada, a medic with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, uses the "Jaws of Life" to remove a door from a burned-out training vehicle. Soldiers practiced fire rescue, and vehicle extraction with the Rustamiyah Fire Department May 18.

Remembering a Little League Umpire

Without umpires, referees and officials, competitive sports could not exist. Whether it's professional sports, or Pop Warner, they give their time so that we may have competition. Maybe it's because they love the sport, or maybe it's for the extra money. Either way; we need them, and sometimes we love them (depending on which way the call goes).

I want to dedicate this sports article to an umpire whom I will never forget: Bob Duncan.

When I was a child, sports weren't what my brothers and I did, it's what we lived. We were always playing baseball, basketball or football. Baseball, I have to admit, was always my favorite sport to play.

The recreation department and baseball fields were no more than a mile from home, which I think saved my parents from driving us all over the place for a baseball game.

Bob was one of the guys who always signed up to umpire. He umpired for everything from little league to high school. He was always at the ballpark.

Being a catcher every year, I had a different relationship with umpires. I always tried little tricks I learned from others such as "framing" the catch and "working" the calls. This is where I first met Bob. He was umpiring my games. He knew my dad

pretty well, and would always give me little hints during games.

Bob always called the games fairly, even though they were little league games. He knew they were important to us kids. He was always there with his old-school chest pad, his face mask and his call counter, ready to go.

There was never a question if the game had started. As soon as Bob saw it was game time, he would yell, "Play ball!"

Whether you were playing in the game he was umpiring or simply at the ball park, you knew when Bob was calling the game. He was extremely boisterous in calling his strikes and strikeouts. He had a style unlike any other I have ever seen.

I can remember to this day, batting against a pitcher who was throwing fastballs with such ferocity as to make you never want to step into the batter's box again. It was bad enough I knew I was going down, but on top of that, I knew everyone else in a three-mile radius would know it, too. Here's how it would go down.

"Steeeee---rrrrrr---iiii---kke!" Bob yelled at the top of his lungs. To me, strike one is no big deal; it's part of the game. I

could do without the "public address," but I had two more strikes to work with.

Then, "Steeeee---rrrrrr---iiii---kke twooooo!!!" This second strike call was always a little more pronounced as if to say, "Hey kid, I'm about to ring you up faster than a cashier during half-off day at the Dollar Store." This is when I started to worry. I know I can't hit this guy, but my girlfriend might be watching. As the pitcher began his windup, I prepared myself for the show that would ensue.

"Steeeee---rrrrrr---iiii---kke three-eee!!!" Bob wouldn't just bellow out the call, he would raise his right arm and then "punch you out." Now everyone at the ballpark knew you struck out. There was no end to the heckling you would get in the dugout.

As bad as it was to have Bob "ring you up," it was just as good to have him behind the plate. Sometimes he sent me back to the bench teary-eyed with others laughing and loving the way he did his job.

He simply loved being an umpire. That was easy to see from his pure enthusiasm behind the plate and his umpiring year after year. I have to say I was always a little upset when he didn't call my games. I still greatly admire his love for his profession.

Bob passed away recently. I am honored to say he was a family friend and someone I could always look up to. I couldn't be home to pay my respects to Bob, but I can and will always tell others about the best umpire to ever call a game.



Trigger Pull



Pfc. Benjamin Gable

DON'T BE
A fatal accident only
A DUMMY!
happens once in a lifetime.

